

## UPDATE: Protests

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**From:** "Fletcher, Genevieve -MINT" <genevieve.fletcher@international.gc.ca>  
**To:** "Easton, Jason -MINT" <jason.easton@international.gc.ca>, "White, Jillian -MINT" <jillian.white@international.gc.ca>, "Kassam, Samir -MINT" <samir.kassam@international.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** \*MINT-Dept Unit/Unité ministérielle <d-mint-dept-unit@international.gc.ca>  
**Date:** Fri, 11 Feb 2022 22:33:31 +0000

Hello,

Please find below three updates on the protests shared by officials.

### **PM-POTUS:**

1. POTUS and Prime Minister spoke this morning.
2. They share deep concerns on the impact on the economy, flow of goods, and the auto sector in particular.
3. They also shared their concerns on the true nature of these protests and ongoing efforts to undermine democracy.
4. Touched on concerns viz. of US cross-country caravan and Sunday Superbowl.
5. PM thanked US offers of support. Commitment to work together to address situation.
6. Channels of communication and cooperation are open on all levels (e.g. TC-DoT. NSIA-DHS. CBSA-CBP.)

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### **Ongoing Discussions**

- PM-POTUS had a 1-on-1 on the border on the margins of this morning 11:00 POTUS-Leaders call on Ukraine with G7 (minus Japan) + NATO and Poland.
- U.S. Amb. Cohen démarching MINA this PM on Ukraine. Border situation might come up.
- NSIA spoke to the U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall spoke Wednesday.
- TC Min. Alghabra discussed with DoT Sec. Pete Buttigieg discussed Thursday.
- PS Mendicino and US Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas are to speak today.
- WSHDC/Loken had a call with Michigan Rep. Dan Kildee.
- CBSA and US Customs and Border Protection also cooperating on the ground at the crossings.
- There have been US enquiries yesterday (White House & Michigan Governor) into PCO as to how many tow trucks would be required on the Canadian side.

### **Impact on Canada-US Trade and broader relationship**

1. High-level of US concerns on implications on flow of goods across the border... and ripple effect of protests across the US.
2. Immediate Trade Impact: \$2.4B+/day two-way trade. \$500M via Ambassador Bridge alone.
3. Longer-term impact: Reinforce pressures for near-shoring supply chains south of the Can-US border.

- a. DOT Secretary Buttigieg pointed out our supply chains vulnerability in his call with TC Min. Alghabra yesterday.
- b. For awareness: Stellantis CEO (PSA-Fiat-Chrysler) was in Windsor Tuesday and Wednesday, leading a 12-person executive delegation to consider a multi-billion dollar investment in North America, related to electric vehicle and battery production.

**Impact and Reporting from the Network:**

- Our HoMs in the U.S. network are solicited locally on this matter. Number one issue on many of their local engagements.
- GAC will share relevant reporting from the global network (call-out went to US network of HoMs) re: Canada's relationships and interests, and any replication of the Canadian protests.
- HoMs are tracking weekend protests and potential blockades in the US, incl. plans for Buffalo-Niagara Peace Bridge (poster below), and Sunday Super Bowl in LA.

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- GAC's RRM (Rapid Response Mechanism) Canada team continues to monitor for indicators of foreign state efforts to spread disinformation and manipulate the information environment related to the protests
- RRM Canada has not seen evidence of significant foreign state sponsored involvement to date.
- There are continued indications of foreign linked and grey media sites (sites with suspected ties to hostile state actors) pushing false, misleading and negative content targeting the Canadian government and the PM; there are also low levels of false amplification of this content on Twitter. The content includes the following narratives:
  - o Reframing the actions of the government as representing a small minority, and asserting the majority of Canadians are represented by and in support of the protests
  - o Suggesting the PM is hiding from protesters and is acting in violation of their right to protest
  - o Questioning the efficacy and lawfulness of the pandemic restrictions and vaccine mandates
  - o Questioning whether the PM has been vaccinated
  - o Contrasting the PMs previous comments on the Indian farmers protest as a sign of hypocrisy regarding the right to protest in the current context; misleading/falsely claiming the governments unlawful approach
- However RRM Canada assesses that the majority of this content is a result of domestic and transnational non-state actors, including ideologically motivated, conspiratorial, and COVID disinformation communities as well as a large portion of organic content from average users.

# USA - CANADA CONVOYS 2022



**FEBRUARY  
12TH**

MEET UP LOCATION  
900 YOUNG STREET  
TONAWANDA, NY 14150  
11:00 AM

PAT SOLE PARK  
888 COLUMBUS PKWY  
BUFFALO, NY 14213  
12:00 PM



📍 NIAGARA PEACE BRIDGE



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